

Taking Advantage of Leap Year.

By ANNE HEILMAN.

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Dora Wright had practically mastered the difficult art of being poor when fate presented her whimsically with abundance. While she was still wondering what she was going to do with it all some relatives swooped down upon her and whisked her off to Newport for the season.

About two months later Miss Wright returned from an elaborate function very late one night, or, rather, very early one morning.

Bidding her aunt and cousins good night, she wearily ascended the stairs to her room, her shimmering ball dress billowing gracefully around her slender figure. One hour later she walked briskly down the same stairs attired in a natty linen traveling suit and carrying a small satchel.

"I am going away for a visit," she informed the astonished butler as she unlocked the front door at her command. "You'll find a small trunk, locked and strapped, in my room. Please send it to this address," handing the man a card and a bill of gener-

every night and eat things I detested. I had to dance when I was tired and listen to poor music and go into ecstasies over execrable singing when I was sleepy and my head ached. I had to ride in automobiles and go yachting. A yacht always makes me sick, and you know what I think of automobiles."

Mr. Langdon did not seem properly impressed, so Dora continued in an aggrieved voice:

"I spent hours racing around with golf sticks when I'd much rather sit down quietly with an agreeable book. It's very well to do what you dislike if you're accomplishing anything, but all this activity was accomplishing nothing except spoiling my temper and making me thin. But you haven't said yet that you were glad to see me, Robert."

Langdon's look of adoration seemed to be nothing more than she expected.

"Yes, Dora, I am glad," he said simply. "I thought you had forgotten me. I didn't blame you," he continued hastily as she made a dissenting gesture. "I was glad to think that at last you were enjoying what your beauty and your nature entitled you to and that your brave conduct in adversity was being properly rewarded. But why did you come back here, Dora? Why did you come back to this dreary manufacturing town when you had the whole world to choose from?"

Dora looked intently at him while he was speaking. She noted the streaks of gray in his well kept hair, the sad droop of the patient mouth, the many lines around his tired eyes.

"For more reasons than one. I knew you needed looking after, Robert. I knew you were lonely and working hard in order to forget. I knew you were tired and that your eyes were used up. I knew you felt the heat more than ever and wouldn't take any refreshing trolley rides out into the breezy country or go on any cozy little picnics without your old friend. Now I'm going to inveigle you out every afternoon, and we'll read our favorite authors in the evenings, just as we used to before I became an heiress."

Langdon drew a deep breath and looked longingly at the girl, who appeared to be unconscious of having said anything unusual.

"I was tired," he said. His eyes and voice were perilously near tears, the porch was deserted, and he laid his hand gently on hers. "But in the future the knowledge that you thought of me and came back to cheer me up will keep me from fatigue and every other ill. But you must return to your relatives. If you don't like Newport, there are other places. Travel, Dora, and get the good of the money that came to you late, but, thank God, not too late!"

Dora regarded him with an amused tenderness.

"You don't know me half as well as I know you, Robert. I have no intention of going back to the relatives who ignored my very existence until Uncle Timothy left me a fortune. And I don't want to spend my money in travel at present. I came to the place I like, and here I'm going to stay."

Langdon leaned suddenly toward Dora. His pale face flushed, and his hands trembled, but he pulled himself up again resolutely.

"I'm right, though, Dora. In spite of your heavenly kindness it can't be the same as it was when we were both poor. My dear girl, don't you see that it is different?"

Dora smiled tenderly at him. "Certainly I see that it's different, because now I have the means to provide luxuriously for the old mother and delicate sister and to keep up a house for us both."

Langdon was shaking visibly.

"Dora, it will not do. Your husband must be a more brilliant man than this old friend, though he can never be a more faithful. He must be of your own age and your own financial standing. You make it hard, dear one, but you must go back tomorrow."

"I shall never go back," she said resolutely. "And I shall never have a husband, Robert, unless it is this unselfish old friend."

Langdon raised his hand to his tired eyes to hide a rush of happy tears.

"Do you mean?" he stammered.

"Yes," answered Dora gayly; "I mean this as a proposal. It's leap year, you know."

Logical.

The man wearing a "deaf and dumb" placard stood before the judge.

"Your honor," he said, "I do not wish to take undue technical advantage. I do not claim to be without hearing or speech. The words 'deaf and dumb,' without qualification, are words and nothing more. Supposing I had worn a number on a tag? Would that have made me guilty of asserting myself a dog or an automobile?"

"Moreover, your honor, a man may be deaf and dumb constructively. That's my status during business hours."

"Your reasoning is excellent," responded the court, "and, though I send you to jail for thirty days, you are not to be deprived of the right to consider yourself constructively free."—Philadelphia Ledger.

He Bought the Bell.

"Got any cow bells?" inquired a country looking man of a clerk in a hardware store.

"Yes, sir. Step this way," replied the young man.

The farmer picked up the largest he could find and said, "Have you no larger than this?"

"No, sir. The largest ones are all sold."

The farmer, on hearing this, turned

to leave and had reached the door when the clerk called after him.

"Look here, stranger! Take one of these small bells for your cow, and you won't have half as much bother finding her, for when you hear the bell you will always know that she can't be far off."

He bought the bell.—Judge.

ROADLESS AMERICA

From the maledictions scattered broadcast in the mire of roadless America by despairing bicyclists fifteen years ago hopes of better things have taken root. So writes C. F. Carter in the Technical World Magazine. No gift of prophecy is now required to foresee a time when these hopes will have so far materialized that a team, if it is a good one, will be able to haul an empty wagon over the gumbo roads of the Mississippi valley in spring, and the public highways of the south will be so well buoyed that light draught automobiles may navigate them in comparative safety.

From every part of the country comes the same encouraging news. Sixteen states now have highway commissions that are trying in various ways to supply the greatest need of the nation, which is good roads. At one extreme is New York, which, in 1905, voted to expend fifty million dollars in building roads. Under the plan adopted the state will build and maintain 3,332 miles connecting the principal cities, and pay one-half the cost of 4,700 miles of local roads to be built by the counties.

At the other extreme, is Iowa, the third state in the Union in extent of road mileage, where the use of the public highways is so vast that if teams enough could be assembled to do in one day all the travelling done in the state in a year the line would reach once and a half around the earth, which does out an annual appropriation of \$5,000 to defray the expenses of the state college faculty while acting in the capacity of highway commission. With this introduction the author writes of what is being done and what can be done to transform roadless America, and the article is illustrated with fine photographs.

BEES AT WORK

Three hundred billion bees made enough honey last year to fill a train of cars enough to reach from New York to Buffalo. At the low wholesale rate of ten cents a pound it was worth \$25,000,000, and if the 700,000 bee keepers of the country had worked as industriously and skillfully as did the bees the weight of the output would have been three times as great as the value \$75,000,000.

Not only did the little workers contribute that vast supply of a pure and delicious food product to the nation but as they made it they treated it antiseptically with formic acid thus preventing impurities or decay.

In one year the bee hives sent to market a product worth nearly as much as the barley crop; three times as much as the buckwheat crop; \$6,000,000 greater than the rye crop and nearly \$9,000,000 greater than the rice crop. All of the rice and buckwheat grown on an aggregated area of 2,126 square miles did not reach, to the value of the honey by \$151,259.

To appreciate these results one must necessarily strive also to appreciate the number of insects at work. That is rather difficult for three hundred billion stretches a long way beyond intelligent human comprehension. The human mind doesn't work well, in anything mathematically greater than thousands.—Technical World.

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